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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jon D. Clauson  
Serial No. : 09/736,627  
Filed : December 13, 2000  
Title : VARIABLE DITHERING FOR GIF

Art Unit : 2671  
Examiner : Linzy T. McCartney

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF DECEMBER 19, 2003

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an output image from a source image, wherein the colors of the output image are generated from a limited color palette, comprising:
- receiving an electronic source image containing a plurality of colors not all of which can be painted in the output image;
- receiving a dithering mask corresponding to the source image, wherein the dithering mask contains a plurality of dithering levels specifying, on a per pixel basis, the degree to which colors in corresponding regions of the source image can be variably dithered to paint the output image; and

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 15, 2004

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